

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3768

EXDIS

DEPT PASS AEC

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IS

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH ISRAEL AEC OFFICIALS

1. DR GILBERT OMENN, WHITE HOUSE FELLOW AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT, CHAIRMAN USAEC AND DR CHINN, SCIATT, AMEMBASSY, MET JULY 5 FOR WIDE RANGING DISCUSSIONS WITH MR FREIER, DIRECTOR GENERAL ISAREL AEC AND MR ADAR, DIRECTOR POWER FACILITIES. FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED:

2. ISRAELI AEC SEEKS ASSISTANCE IN COOPERATIVE ASSESSMENT OF (1) DESIGN OF REACTOR TO PRETECT AGAINST ACTS OF WAR AND (2) SITING CRITERIA APPLIED TO PROPOSED SITE FOR U.S. SUPPLIED REACTOR NEAR ASHDOD. ANY AEC REPORTS OR COMMENTS RELEVANT TO (1) CAN BE TRANSMITTED VIA OMENN OR CHINN. LETTER FROM DR FREIER TO DR ABE FRIEDMAN, AEC, TWO WEEKS AGO REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM AE LICENSING DIVISION ON CRITERIA FOR CONSTRUCTION PERMIT. LONG RANGE CONSIDERATION OF CLUSTERING ALSO IS OF INTEREST.

3. ISRAELIS ANTICIPATE BRINGING FIRST 600 MW(E) REACTOR ON LINE IN 1982, WITH AN ADDITIONAL REACTOR EACH 12-18 MONTHS TO YEAR 2000. THEY ARE PLANNING TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITHIN FEW WEEKS WITH SUPPLIERS

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WESTINGHOUSE OR GE, BUT WISH TO CONSIDER ITEMS (1)

AND (2) ABOVE FIRST. ISRAEL'S PROJECTIONS CLEARLY
RELY VERY HEAVILY ON NUCLEAR REACTORS FOR POWER
NEEDS.

4. SAFEGUARDS WERE DISCUSSED IN CONTEXT OF
THE PROMISED POWER REACTORS FOR EGYPT AND ISRAEL AS
WELL AS ISSUES OF TERRORISM OR THEFT. DURING DIS-
CUSSION OF THE FUEL CYCLE, REPROCESSING REQUIREMENTS,
AND THE NEED TO APPLY REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDS WELL
BEYOND THE USUAL IAEA ACCOUNTABILITY, FRIER BECAME
USUALLY CAUTIOUS. HE SAID IT WAS NOT HIS NATURE
TO BE EVASIVE, BUT THAT HE COULD NOT REVEAL HIS
THINKING ON THESE MATTERS BEFORE SHARING IT WITH
HIS OWN GOVT. HE MUST FIRST HAVE DISCUSSIONS
WITH HIS TECHNICAL COLLEAGUES AND WITH THE PRIME
MINISTER. HE ESTIMATED THIS WOULD BECOME
PUBLIC WITHIN A MONTH OR LESS. THE ISRAELIS
CLEARLY DISTRUST ANY "SYMMETRY" OF REQUIREMENTS PLACED
UPON BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL, FOR FEAR THAT THE
EGYPTIANS WOULD VIOLATE THE AGREEMENT. HE ALSO
EMPHASIZED HIS BELIEF THAT THERE BE NO UNDUE RUSH
TO DESIGN PLANS FOR REPROCESSING AND OTHER SAFEGUARD,
SINCE MANY ISSUES IN THIS AREA MAY CHANGE LONG BEFORE
1982. IN FACT, RECENT FUEL PURCHASE AGREEMENT
ALLOWS ISRAEL UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1975 TO SIGN,
THOUGH HE HOPES TO MOVE ON THIS SUBJECT MUCH SOONER.

5. WITH REGARD TO DIMONA REACTOR, FREIER WAS NON-
COMMITTAL. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION
WHETHER FOREIGN STUDENTS HAD WORKED ON RESEARCH
PROJECTS, WHICH HAD BEEN MENTIONED BY THE ISRAELIS
IN THE EARLY '60S, FREIER FIRMLY STATED, "ONLY
ISRAELI STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO WORK THERE".

6. CONCERNING NPT, FREIER STATED ONLY THAT THE
SUBJECT IS STILL UNDER STUDY. IT WAS CLEAR THAT
NEITHER NPT NOR DIMONA WERE SUBJECTS HE
WISHED TO PURSUE.

7. FREIER ACKNOWLEDGED A LEGITIMATE EGYPTIAN
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INTEREST IN NUCLEAR POWER, RECOGNIZING ITS ECONOMIC
VALUE FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND THE DESIRABILITY
OF RESERVING OIL FOR OTHER PURPOSES, EVEN IF AVAILABLE.
VELIOTES

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED AEC.

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